



The State Bar of California presents

Bernida M. Reagan

"Bernida will no doubt inspire countless advocates across the state to take a risk, make bold moves, and stay absolutely rooted in their communities. We need more of that in California."

*Tanya Neiman, 1998 Loren Miller Recipient and
Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services Program,
Bar Association of San Francisco*

"Legal services attracts people of high quality. Bernida is a leader among them and I am delighted she is receiving this award."

Ramón P. Arias, Executive Director of Bay Area Legal Aid

2002 Loren Miller Legal Services Award Recipient

In recognition of her unique ability to combine the delivery of legal services with clinical teaching programs and client advocacy, the State Bar of California awards the 2002 Loren Miller Legal Services Award to Bernida Reagan of Oakland, California.

Ms. Reagan began her 22-year legal services career as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, continued her legal services work at Public Counsel and ultimately worked for thirteen years at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). As Executive Director of EBCLC, Ms. Reagan helped create numerous innovative delivery systems to expand the availability of legal services to the poor that involved partnerships, collaborations and support beyond the traditional legal services community. In addition, under her stewardship, EBCLC grew from a small, student-based project with a budget of \$150,000 and four lawyers serving 200 clients a year to the East Bay's largest legal services provider with a budget of nearly \$2 million and 15 lawyers serving more than 2,000 clients per year.

She is credited with expanding legal services provided by EBCLC with law students and cultivating financial support from Boalt Hall for EBCLC's clinical program, thereby fostering and encouraging new generations of legal services attorneys. Also she was instrumental in the design and implementation of an award winning and nationally and internationally recognized clinical education program at EBCLC where law students become parts of teams designed to address legal problems from a community-based perspective. Ms. Reagan received the 2002 William Pincus Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Cause of Clinical Legal Education and the Advancement of Justice, the highest national award given for clinical legal educational programs.

Ms. Reagan has a history of successful community organizing and collaborations that improve the lives of low-income people, especially in the area of community economic development. Most noteworthy are her efforts that resulted in the formation of the Peoples' Community Partnership Federal Credit Union in May 2001, the first credit union serving low-income residents of West Oakland and the Bay Area Construction Sector Intervention Collaborative (BACSIC), a collaborative formed in an effort to employ more people who traditionally have been excluded from the construction trade.

Ms. Reagan has served as a leader to the Community Projects Committee of the Alameda County Bar Association by identifying ways to better serve low-income clients. Earlier this year, Ms. Reagan became the Director of Social Responsibility for the Port of Oakland, a position that allows her to continue her commitment to justice in a larger arena.

